10/31/71

Dear Mary,

The past couple of weeks have been among our roughest, and I think you have a fair notion of what this means. There were two times this past week when I spent but a couple of hours in bed. The emotional strain in each case was so heavy I couldn't even fall asleep during the day when I tried. However, last night I fell apart and am now together again. I got almost as much sleep sitting up after supper as I get the average night, then went to bed and got as much sleep as usual before waking, then, after a period of sleeplessness, slep until after daylight. So, I write you after what is the equivalent of almost three nights of sleep in one for me, fresher in mind.

There is no useful point to be served by going into any of this now except in one respect it makes my time more flexible. Aslong as I leave enough work for Lil so that in my absence she can keep going without crushing herself, to the end that after I return she not have to exhaust herself catching up, I can go to Dallas at almost any time now. The one exception of which I know - and other things can come up - is next weekend, that of the 6th, when three others are scheduled to come here. Although the odds are against what I fear, what I know is possible, the result of Cyril's unthoughtout request for the film, which he may or may not delay, is another thing that can intrude. I also have another trip to make. It includes New Orleans. I'd like to talk to you before I go there, for while my purposes are not on the JFK case, you may have some ideas of what I should try when I am there. I expect no help there from Jim. (I will let him know I am coming.)

Also, in the few minutes I've had for thinking since your very welcome call of a week ago, it has occurred to me that Arch really knows little about me and he might want to do some plumbing of my inner depths. We should also do much talking, and there is in my mind a question about how much of this he can do at any one time. Thus I think we should plan for me to be there long enough for him to do this and other things at a pace that can neither tire nor jeopardize him. The rest of the time I can put to good use. To this end may I ask you to send me a current Dallas phone book? Please send it fourth class, book rate, special handling. The special handling costs about a quarter and it means that once the book, which goes at 14¢ for the first pound and 7¢ each added lb, is in the mail it is handled as first class. This will enable me to learn, except where they have unlisted phones, who remains there of those I'd like to speak to. When you see the new last part of POST MORTEM you will understand part of this better.

Then, too, Arch might like to know more about what I am into, more about the books I have started and the factual basis already in hand. But all of this should be unhurried, so he also will feel no tensions and pressures. We must not tax him in any way or excite him too much.

Our financial situation is now so bad I can't even put out my expenses in advance. I don't have enough money. Through the travel agency in DC I used to use, I can arrange credit on the ticket if I have to. I have in the past. The man who runs it, if he is still there, is an old friend.

Arch undoubtedly has certain false preconceptions about me. Unlike me, I have no doubt he can be open-minded. To this end, if and when you think he is up to it, you might direct his attention to what I have written about such liberal symbols as the Washington Post in PM I and Ramsey Clark in what is now doign ted OH III but will become II. I think it likely he will then understand that to the degree it can be true, I am no political blinders and tell it as I think it is. The plain fact is that these and other "liberals" are those who have opposed me most and cheated me out of most of the money owed me.

As soon as you have finished with the GAO contract and other papers, I'd appreciate your sending them to Bill Oldhamsen rather than returning them to me. I have heard by phone from Jim and he tells me the problem I imagined does not exist and that they have a NYC associated firm. Meanwhile, I shall also write another there. Best toall,